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SIPDIS

DEPARTMENT FOR G/TIP, G, INL, DRL, EUR/PGI, EUR/SE

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SUBJECT: TIP IN TURKEY: INTERIM ASSESSMENT FOR SPECIAL WATCH LIST COUNTRIES

REF: SECSTATE 228457

Post's responses to reftel:

Hotlines and Public Information Campaigns

The GOT has not demonstrated appreciable progress on establishing victim hotlines or a focused public awareness campaign. It claims it has run into financing difficulties since hotline costs are significantly more than expected.

Victim Identification, Referral, and Protection

On June 29, 2004, the GOT finalized a protocol with Turkey's lead anti-TIP NGO Human Resources Development Foundation (HRDF) to establish the first shelter for victims of trafficking in Turkey (04 IST 1062). Secretary Powell, Turkish FonMin Abdullah Gul, and members of Turkey's National Task Force to Combat Human Trafficking presided over a publicized signing ceremony. Under terms of the agreement, the Istanbul Metropolitan Municipality leased and renovated a residential housing unit and turned administration of the facility over to partner HRDF (04 ANK 4808). On November 2, the shelter successfully managed the repatriation of its first victims, three Ukrainian women referred by Jandarma officers after an October 31 TIP-raid in Istanbul (04 ANK 6309).

International Cooperation

In 2004, IOM, HRDF and the GOT combined to assist in the voluntary returns of more than 50 victims of trafficking, up from less than 5 in 2003 (04 ANK 4808). The GOT resolved long-standing internal opposition to finance, at an annual cost of 154,000 Swiss Francs, Turkey's full member status with the IOM. The GOT reported additional participation in international anti-TIP law enforcement operations through OSCE, the Council of Europe, NATO, Stability Pact TIP Task Force, SECI and Europol. The GOT issued draft protocols to source countries proposing bilateral cooperation in anti-TIP law enforcement and prosecution but according to MFA reports, only Azerbaijan, Belarus, Georgia, and Ukraine responded (04 ANK 4317). Partner governments and host country NGOs reported the GOT's implementation of the protocols remains inconsistent (04 ANK, 4544, 04 BAKU, 1235, 04 KIEV 3594), though media reports (04 ANK 3675, 04 ANK 4502, 04 ANK 5002) documented successful anti-TIP police operations with some source countries.

Training

Assisted by a 10,000 USD grant from the Turkish Ministry of Foreign Affairs, IOM continued an aggressive training schedule with the cooperation of law enforcement and judicial officials from the MOJ, MOI, Security Directorate, Jandarma, and other members of Turkey's anti-TIP National Task Force. According to MFA statistics, since June 2004, 332 law enforcement officers participated in anti-TIP training courses organized by the Turkish MOI, MOJ, Stability Pact Task Force, International Center for Migration Policy Development (ICMPD) and IOM (04 ANK 6072). As with past programs, the most recent training event scheduled for November 23-26 in Adana, will include victim identification and protection components focused on a "training of trainers" approach to anti-TIP education. The GOT also incorporated TIP sensitivity and screening training in academy curricula for new national police and Jandarma recruits (04 ANK 4416, 04 ANK 4448).

Erzurum Case-specific Information

Following a December 2003 law enforcement operation at a brothel in Erzurum, police screened, detained, and later deported a Ukrainian woman they determined engaged

voluntarily but illegally in prostitution. Before notifying the Ukrainian Embassy that the Government would deport the woman, however, Erzurum's governor and deputy security director identified her in a televised press conference and announced (falsely according to her attorney) that she tested positive for HIV and Hepatitis C. The governor urged men with whom she had sexual intercourse (1335 in three months) to seek immediate medical attention at local clinics. The press conference prompted panic in the city and international outcry, including from the United Nations, denouncing the Government's discriminatory and abusive violation of the woman's human rights. The Government reportedly provided the woman a temporary residence permit, free of charge medical care, and temporary shelter. The Government announced that two Erzurum police officers were prosecuted for affiliation with an illegal prostitution syndicate, imprisoned for six months, fined and banned from further government employment. The Ministry of Justice is currently investigating the possibility of further police involvement. The Ministry of Interior reportedly sent written orders on multiple occasions to each of Turkey's governorates warning against similar public actions and human rights abuses in future cases (04 ANK 4147).

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